

# Fort Davis

## National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: The Life of a Soldier at a Frontier Fort

**Topic:** By studying the schedule of the soldier's life, students will observe the routine necessary to a military life style and the dedication needed by the soldiers.

**Objectives and Standards:** Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

**Grade 6**  
**Social Studies**  
**113.22:** 2, 13

**Grade 7**  
**Social Studies**  
**111.23:** 6, 19, 22

**Grade 8**  
**Social Studies**  
**111.24:** 9, 20, 23, 7

**Music (117.33, .36, .39) Grade 6, 7, 8**

(5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture

**Materials Needed:** Student activity sheet, pen or pencil, paper, a volunteer band student to play Taps, sheet music of Taps, map pencils, Internet access.

### Lesson Activities:

**Activities:** Ask a band trumpet student ahead of the lesson to practice Taps. Ask that student to do research on the origin of the music of Taps. Using pairs of students or small groups, have them write a letter to a family member that lives far away from the fort. For those students who have difficulty writing, They could draw a picture of the soldiers doing their daily assignments or what the soldiers might do during their leisure time.

### Answer Key:

1. Taps represents the end of a soldier's day / life.
2. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
3. "Put out the lights. Go to sleep. Go to sleep. Go to sleep. Go to sleep. Put out the lights. Go to sleep. Go to sleep." (Blue and Gray Magazine, August 1993)
4. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.

**Wrap-up and Assessment:** Have students respond to the playing of Taps. How does it make them feel? How do they think the soldiers felt when they heard it at the end of each day? Have students share their letters and art work with the class.